AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An end termination ~~means~~ for a tension ~~legs (10; 10')~~ leg of non-metallic ~~materials like composite~~ material, ~~which~~ the tension leg ~~(10; 10') is~~ being constructed of a number of strands ~~(5;5', 6)~~ that constitute the load carrying elements of the tension leg, ~~(10; 10'), which~~ the strands ~~(5;5', 6) are~~ being twisted ~~(laid)~~ about the longitudinal axis of the tension leg ~~(10; 10')~~ by a predetermined laying length, ~~and~~ each of the strands ~~(5;5', 6) is in turn~~ being constructed of a plurality of rods ~~(7;7')~~ of composite material having embedded strength ~~fibres where~~ fibers, the rods ~~(7;7') are~~ being twisted about each other, ~~like in a wire rope,~~ and the strands ~~(5;5', 6)~~ terminate near a receiving body ~~(16)~~ having connecting means and a number of through-going apertures enclosing the respective strands, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein each strand ~~(5;5', 6)~~ is passed through a respective aperture ~~(8)~~ in the receiving body ~~(16)~~ without being fixed therein, ~~that~~ each strand ~~(5;5', 6)~~ has a free end terminating some distance above the receiving body ~~(16)~~, and ~~that~~ the free end of each strand ~~(5;5', 6)~~ is fixed to and enclosed by a terminating sleeve ~~(9)~~ having a diameter larger than a corresponding aperture ~~(8)~~ in the receiving body, ~~(16), which~~ the terminating sleeve ~~(9) is~~ loosely resting on or abutting the receiving body ~~(16)~~.

2. (Currently Amended) The end termination ~~means~~ according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the terminating sleeve ~~(9)~~ is internally tapered in a direction towards the receiving body ~~(16)~~.

3. (Currently Amended) The end termination ~~means~~ according to claim 1 or 2, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein a guiding sleeve ~~(11)~~ is a separate element from the receiving body and is arranged within each aperture ~~(8)~~ of the receiving body ~~(16)~~.

4. (Currently Amended) The end termination ~~means~~ according to claim 3, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the guiding sleeve ~~(11)~~ is shorter than the length of the aperture ~~(8)~~ of the receiving body ~~(16)~~.

5. (Currently Amended) The end termination ~~means~~ according to claim 4, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the guiding sleeve ~~(11)~~ is arranged within the aperture ~~(8)~~ close to the entrance of the strands ~~(5;5', 6)~~ into the receiving body ~~(16)~~.

6. (Currently Amended) The end termination ~~means~~ according to 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein each aperture ~~(8)~~ through the receiving body ~~(16)~~ terminates in a concentric recess ~~(12)~~ for receipt of and to act as a guide and seat for the terminating sleeve ~~(9)~~.

7. (Currently Amended) The end termination means according to claim 6, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein each recess ~~(12)~~ has a depth ~~(B)~~ that is longer than the distance ~~(A)~~ that a terminating sleeve ~~(9)~~ is able to move out of the receiving body ~~(16)~~.

8. (Currently Amended) The end termination ~~means~~ according to 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the end termination ~~(15)~~ comprises an embracing element ~~(17)~~ that is spaced apart from the receiving body ~~(16)~~ and keeps the strands ~~(5;5', 6)~~ together, ~~that~~ and between the embracing element ~~(17)~~ and the receiving body ~~(16)~~ the strands ~~(5;5', 6)~~ extend ~~less~~ without radial restriction and in a substantially natural direction towards and into the apertures ~~(8)~~ of the receiving body ~~(16)~~.

9. (Currently Amended) The end termination ~~means~~ according to claim 8, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the receiving body ~~(16)~~ acts as a gathering element for the strands ~~(5;5', 6)~~ between the embracing element ~~(17)~~ and the terminating sleeve ~~(9)~~.

10. (Currently Amended) The end termination ~~means~~ according to 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the apertures ~~(8)~~ of the receiving body ~~(16)~~ are ~~somewhat~~ inclined relative to the longitudinal axis of the tension leg ~~(10)~~ and the inclination corresponds to the natural direction of the strands ~~(5;5', 6)~~ between the embracing element ~~(17)~~ and the terminating sleeves ~~(9)~~.

11. (Currently Amended) The end termination ~~means~~ according to 1, ~~characterised in that the end termination (15) comprises~~ further comprising an external rigid sleeve ~~(18)~~ fixed at one end thereof to the receiving body ~~(16)~~ and ~~in its other~~ at an opposite end thereof to the embracing element ~~(17)~~.

12. (Currently Amended) The end termination ~~means~~ according to 1, ~~**characterised in that**~~ wherein the receiving body ~~(16) on its external surface~~ has at least one annular groove ~~(16a)~~ on an external surface thereof for engagement with at least one first annular rib ~~(21a)~~ on a connecting part ~~(21)~~ that is connected to a connecting point ~~(20)~~.

13. (Currently Amended) A coupling for use between an end termination and a connecting point according to claim 12, ~~**characterised in that**~~ wherein the connecting point ~~(20)~~ has at least one external annular groove ~~(20a)~~ for engagement with at least one second annular rib ~~(21b)~~ arranged on the connecting part ~~(21)~~ a distance apart from the at least one first rib, ~~(21a), which~~ and the connecting part ~~(21)~~ is radially fixed by an upper and lower embracing connecting part ~~(22a, 22b)~~.

14. (Currently Amended) A coupling for use between an end termination and a connecting point according to claim 13, ~~**characterised in that**~~ wherein an upper and lower radially outer surface ~~(21c, 21d)~~ on the connecting part ~~(21)~~ has an upward directed conical form and an upper and lower radially inner surface ~~(22c, 22d)~~ on the respective embracing connecting parts ~~(22a, 22b)~~ has a complementary conical form.

15. (Currently Amended) A coupling according to claim 13 or 14, ~~**characterised in that**~~ wherein the connecting parts ~~(20a, 22b)~~ comprise respective pin screws ~~(23a, 23b)~~ for temporary

fixation of the connecting parts ~~(22a, 22b)~~ to the connecting point ~~(20)~~ and the receiving body, ~~(16)~~ respectively.

16. (New) A tension leg, comprising:

a plurality of strands of composite material that constitute the load carrying elements of the tension leg, said strands being twisted about the longitudinal axis of the tension leg by a predetermined laying length, each of said strands being constructed of a plurality of rods of composite material having strength fibers embedded therein, said rods being twisted about each other;

a receiving body, each of said strands terminating near said receiving body, said receiving body including a connector having and a plurality of through-going apertures enclosing the respective strands, each of said strands being passed through a respective aperture in the receiving body without being fixed therein, each strand having a free end terminating some distance above the receiving body; and

a terminating sleeve, said terminating sleeve having a diameter larger than a corresponding aperture in the receiving body, the free end of each strand being fixed to and enclosed by said terminating sleeve, said terminating sleeve loosely resting on or abutting the receiving body.